25th March 1953]

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If you put questions about constables, naturally they come to listen to them." (Laughter.)

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is there a proper shelter for the constables now and if not, will the Government consider the desirability of providing them with a suitable shelter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The requirements of this Chamber will be considered after partition with reference to the conditions prevailing then."

Supply of electricity to New Mahe.

* 181 *Q.*—SRI K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what steps are being taken to extend the supply of electricity to New Mahe?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Supply of electricity to New Mahe is included in a major ten-year scheme which is under consideration."

SRI K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know whether we can have some idea about the period that will be necessary for introducing it in view of the fact that electricity is available within three miles of New Mahe and in view of the strategic importance of that place as it is situated on the border of French Mahe? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" New Mahe lies in Cannanore–Badagara 33 K.V. Section and a 33 K.V./400 V distribution transformer is proposed to be installed there. 40 H.P. industrial, 80 flat rate services, 150 Nos. domestic services and 100 Nos. street lights are anticipated initially in this area. The major scheme referred to above has been ordered to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and the Cabinet for approval."

Dearness allowances to public servants.

* 182 *Q.*—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state— 9-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government follow the cost of living index to increase or decrease the dearness allowances to the public servants of the State; and

(*b*) if so, what is the cost of living index now and what it was in the corresponding period of last year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The Government have been following the cost of living index to increase the rates of dearness allowance to the public servants of the State to the extent their financial position permitted. The question of reducing the rates of dearness allowance has not arisen so far, as the cost of living index is still high.